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WEIRD
WEIRD

STRANGE AND UNBELIEVABLE!

10c



JOURNEY *into*



NOV. 1957

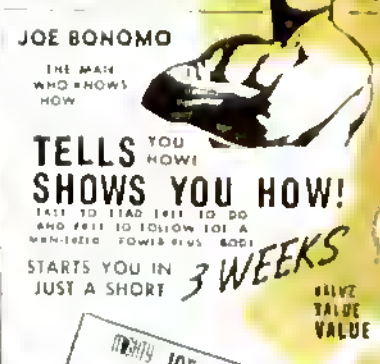
No. 1

FEAR



Death by Invitation
The Monster's Revenge
Demons of the Deep
The Stolen Corpse

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YOUR
MONEY BACK
IF NOT SATISFIED

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Death by Invitation

JOHN MARKSON WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF—DEATH! IT WAS SO UNFAIR! WHY SHOULD HE DIE... HE WHO HAD ALWAYS LIVED A GOOD LIFE, WHEN SO MANY OTHERS WHO'D SERVED TO DIE, LIVED? SO WHEN SENTENCE WAS PRONOUNCED ON HIM, HE DECIDED THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE THE DARK JOURNEY ALONE! HE WOULD BE LAW, JUDGE AND JURY! AND HE WOULD BE EXECUTIONER, TOO! AND HE SENT OUT THE INVITATIONS TO A GRAVE...



JOHN MARKSON PAYS A LONG DELAYED VISIT TO HIS DOCTOR...

TELL ME THE WORST, DOCTOR! I—I'VE HAD SUCH PAINS IN MY HEART LATELY!

BE PATIENT, MR. MARKSON! YOU CAN'T HURRY THESE THINGS!

HOW SOON WILL I KNOW, DOCTOR? I CAN'T STAND THIS UNCERTAINTY!

I'LL SEND YOU A REPORT IN A COUPLE OF DAYS! AS SOON AS I HAVE THE RESULTS OF ALL THE TESTS! TRY NOT TO WORRY! IT MAY NOT BE SERIOUS!



AND WHEN THE REPORT
FINALLY COMES...

A D-DEATH
SENTENCE! THE
DOCTOR SAYS
I'VE ONLY GOT
THREE MONTHS
TO LIVE! THREE
MONTHS AT THE
M-MOST! BUT
WHY? WHY ME?

THAT NIGHT, JOHN MARKSON WALKS
THE HEAVY STREETS, SLEEPLESS
AND AFRAID...

HAH-HAH! A LIE—
ALL LIES! I'VE LIVED
A GOOD LIFE, YET I
MUST DIE! WHILE
WICKED PEOPLE GO
UNPUNISHED, IT'S
NOT FAIR!

MISSION

THE WAGES OF
SIN IS DEATH

WUXTRA—
READ ABOUT
IT! ANOTHER
WATERFRONT
MURDER!
POLICE HAVE
NO CLUES!
READ ALL
ABOUT THE
MURDER!

LISTEN TO HIM!
LOOK AT THOSE
PAPERS! CRIME
EVERYWHERE,
GOING UN-
PUNISHED,
WHILE I HAVE
TO DIE! IF ONLY
I COULD DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT!

LATER THAT NIGHT THE BRAIN OF JOHN
MARKSON, ALREADY TWISTED BY FEAR OF
DEATH, EVOLVES A TERRIBLE PLAN...

WHY NOT? WHY SHOULD
ALL THOSE CROOKS LIVE
WHILE I DIE? I'LL TAKE
THE LAW INTO MY OWN
HANDS! I'LL—(CHUCKLE)
—BE THE JUDGE AND
THE JURY! IF NOBODY
ELSE WILL MAKE THEM
PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES
—I WILL!

THE NEXT DAY, JOHN MARKSON PAYS A
VISIT TO A COSTUME SHOP...

POLICE TONIGHT
WERE FORCED TO
RELEASE DAN
CASTELLI, NOTORIOUS
GANGSTER, FOR LACK
OF EVIDENCE!
CASTELLI HAD
BEEN HELD IN
THE MURDER
OF...

HAH! EVERYBODY
KNOWS CASTELLI IS
A KILLER! SO I'LL
START WITH HIM!
I'LL BE DOING THE
WORLD A
FAVOR!

THIS SHOULD BE
JUST THE THING,
SIR! VERY UNUSUAL,
SIR, GOING TO A
COSTUME BALL
AS DEATH!

YES! I'M
GOING TO—(CHUCKLE)
—PLAY A LITTLE
JOKE ON SOME
FRIENDS OF MINE!
THEY'RE GOING TO
BE VERY MUCH
SURPRISED!

LATER, AS JOHN MARKSON, ALIAS MR. DEATH, RETURNS TO HIS OWN GLOOMY HOUSE...

OOOO! MY FIRST EXECUTION, WELL DONE! DAN CASTELLI HAS PAID FOR HIS CRIMES AND NOBODY WILL EVER - (CHUCKLE) - SUSPECT ME! THEY'LL BLAME SOME OF HIS GANGSTER PALS!

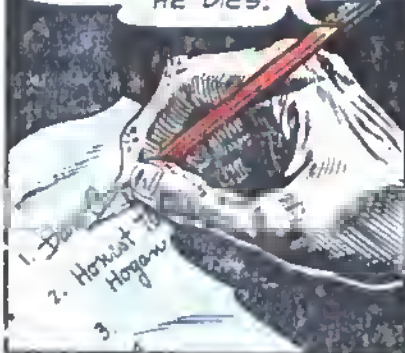


BUT MY WORK HAS ONLY STARTED! THERE ARE SO MANY RASCALS IN THE WORLD, SO MANY WHO DESERVE TO DIE! IF ONLY MY POOR HEART WILL HOLD OUT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED THE JOB!



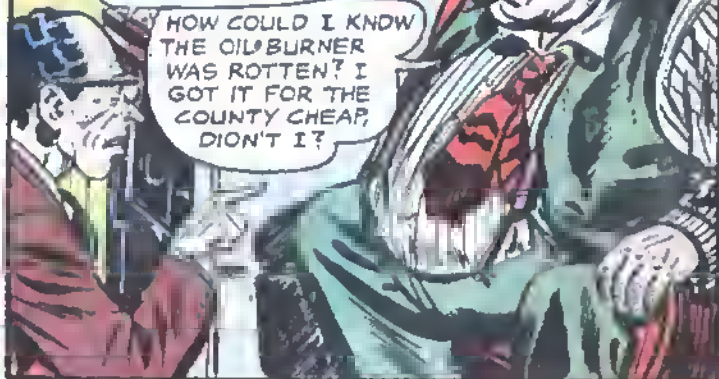
AT THAT MOMENT, HONEST TIM HOGAN HAS OTHER TROUBLES...

NOW WHO'S NEXT? HAH, HONEST TIM HOGAN! HONEST TIM, INDEED! AS CROOKED A POLITICIAN AS EVER LIVED! HE'S GOTTEN RICH ON GRAFT AND CORRUPTION, AND NOW - HE DIES!



I TELL YOU, HONEST TIM, THE HEAT IS ON! A LOTTA KIDS DIED IN THAT ORPHANAGE FIRE AND THE D.A. WANTS TO KNOW WHY?

HOW COULD I KNOW THE OIL BURNER WAS ROTTEN? I GOT IT FOR THE COUNTY CHEAP, DIDN'T I?



ANYWAY WHO CARES ABOUT A BUNCH OF ORPHAN KIDS? THEY'RE BETTER OFF! AND I GOT THE D.A. IN MY POCKET! THIS WILL BLOW OVER LIKE ALL THE OTHER STUFF!



BUT A FEW NIGHTS LATER AS HONEST TIM RETURNS TO HIS PALATIAL HOME AFTER A HARD DAY OF GYPPING THE TAX-PAYERS...

HUH! WHAT'S THIS, SMIRKING? NO STAMP ON IT!

NO, SIR! I FOUND IT PUSHED UNDER THE DOOR, SIR! VERY STRANGE, SIR!



HONEST TIM USES THE CARD OF MR. DEATH TO LIGHT ONE OF HIS DOLLAR CIGARS...

SOME FOOL SENDS ME THREATS! HAH-HAH! IF ONLY THEY KNEW HOW ACCUSTOMED I AM TO THREATS! HURRY UP, SMIRKINS!

YES, MR. HOGAN! YOUR BRANDY, SIR!



NO, YOU FOOL! NOT THIS BOTTLE! IDIOT! GO BACK DOWN TO THE CELLAR AND BRING ME THE NAPOLEON IBIS! MAKE IT SNAPPY, OR YOU'RE FIRED!

Y-YES, SIR! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR! I'LL GET IT RIGHT AWAY!



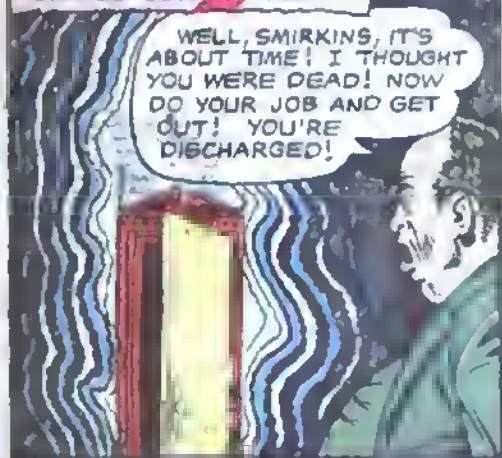
BUT LONG MINUTES PASS AND...

SMIRKINS! HURRY, YOU FAT-HEAD! SMIRKINS! WHERE IN THE DEEVIL ARE YOU?



SUDDENLY A CHILL DRAFT CREEPS THROUGH THE ROOM! THE DOOR SWINGS SLOWLY OPEN...

WELL, SMIRKINS, IT'S ABOUT TIME! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! NOW DO YOUR JOB AND GET OUT! YOU'RE DISCHARGED!



H-HUH! W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU W-WANT? GET OUT! **HELP!**

YOU KNOW WHO I AM, HONEST TIM! WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? THE WAY YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE OIL BURNER AT THE OR...

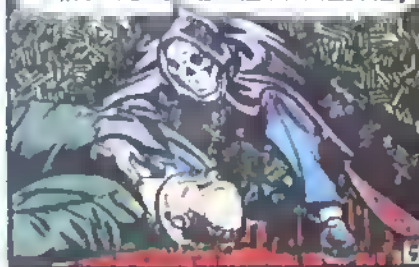


NO! YOU CAN'T— YOU'RE NOT THE LAW! THIS IS SOME TRICK! YOU— AHGGGGG—

BUT I AM THE LAW! HAH-HAH-HAH! I HAVE TRIED AND CONDEMNED YOU! GOODBYE— HONEST TIM!



AND HERE'S ANOTHER OF MY CARDS, JUST SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW HOW YOU DIED! TOO BAD I CAN'T—(CHUCKLE)— TELL THEM WHO I REALLY AM! I'M SURE THEY WOULD WANT TO GIVE ME A MEDAL!



A WEEK PASSES! MR. DEATH REMAINS IN ECLUSION, LISTENING TO THE RADIO AND STUDYING THE NEWSPAPERS! AND ONE NIGHT...

FOOLS! OF COURSE SHE WAS GUILTY! SHE KILLED HER HUSBAND IN COLD BLOOD! I FOLLOWED THE TRIAL IN THE PAPERS! I KNOW SHE'S GUILTY! AND SHE MUST BE PUNISHED!

WANDA TRENT IS LAUGHING AT THE LAW THIS VERY MOMENT! BUT SHE WON'T LAUGH LONG! THE PAPERS SAY SHE IS LIVING AT THE HOTEL REGIS! LIVING? HAH-HAH-HAH! I'LL SOON FIX THAT!

I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT! THE PAINS IN MY CHEST KEEP GETTING WORSE! BUT THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE YET, SO MANY SINNERS TO PUNISH! IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE!

SOON - THE HOTEL REGIS...

THIS WOMAN DESERVES TO DIE! SHE POISONED HER HUSBAND WITH ARSENIC! SHE DESERVES A HORRIBLE DEATH AND I'VE PLANNED JUST THE ONE FOR HER! HAH-HAH- WE'LL SEE HOW SHE LIKES POISON!

A MOMENT LATER...

LOOK AT HER! SUCH INNOCENCE! SHE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE A MURDERESS, BUT SHE IS! AND I'M HER JUDGE! ME - MR. DEATH IN PERSON!

OH! EEEEEEEE-

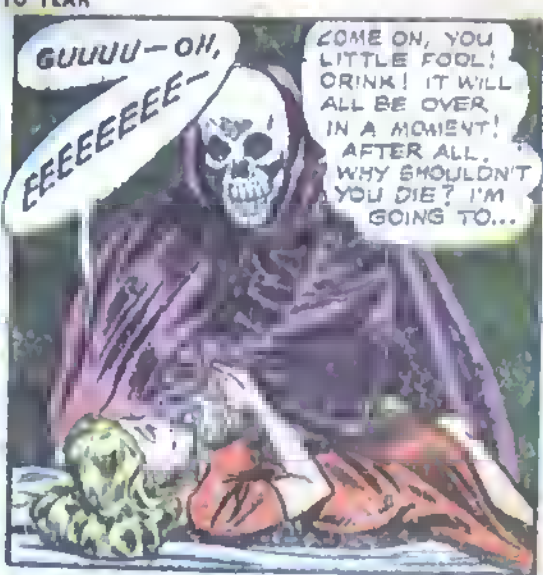
HELLO, WANDA! I KNOW YOU'LL EXCUSE ME FOR NOT SENDING MY CARD AS USUAL! BUT THERE WAS NO TIME! YOU MUST DIE QUICKLY! NOW!



AS STEALTHY AS THE DEATH HE IS IMPERSONATING, JOHN MARKSON STALKS THE HELPLESS GIRL...

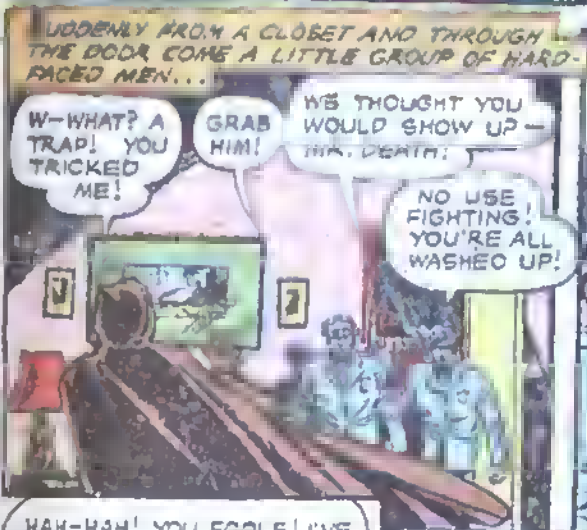
HELP! OH, NO! YOU CAN'T— O—DON'T!

BUT I CAN, WANDA! YOU'RE GOING TO DRINK THIS POISON! ARGENIC! JUST THE SAME AS YOU GAVE YOUR POOR HUSBAND!



GUUUU—OH, EEEEEEE—

COME ON, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DRINK! IT WILL ALL BE OVER IN A MOMENT! AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU DIE? I'M GOING TO...



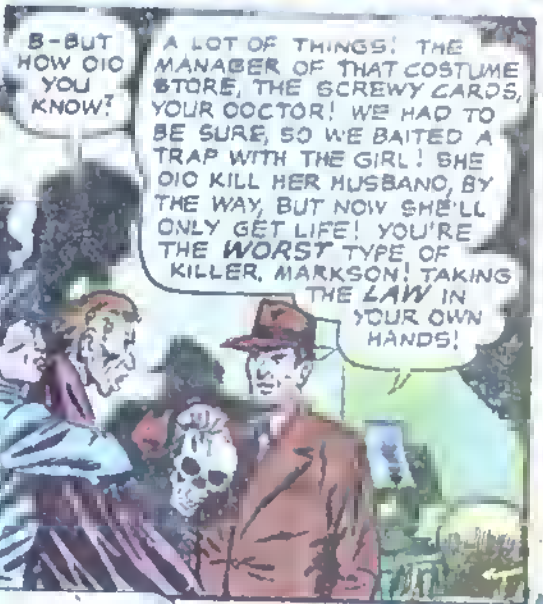
SUDDENLY FROM A CLOSET AND THROUGH THE DOOR, COME A LITTLE GROUP OF HARD-FACED MEN...

W-WHAT? A TRAP! YOU TRICKED ME!

GRAB HIM!

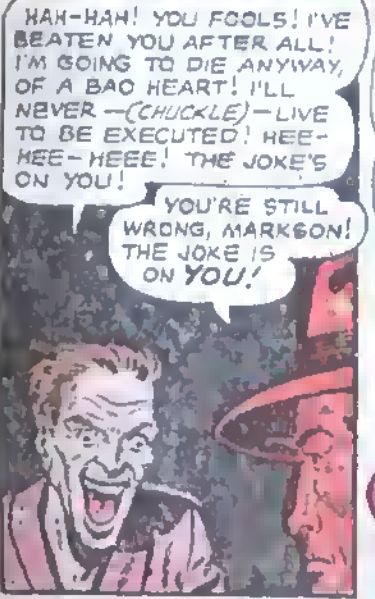
WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD SHOW UP— MR. DEATH!

NO USE FIGHTING! YOU'RE ALL WASHEO UP!



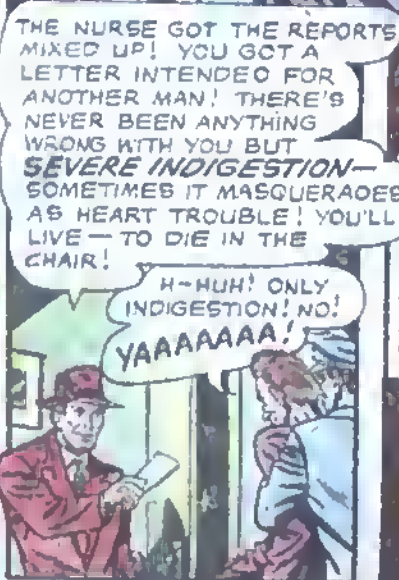
B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

A LOT OF THINGS! THE MANAGER OF THAT COSTUME STORE, THE SCREWY CARDS, YOUR DOCTOR! WE HAD TO BE SURE, SO WE BAITED A TRAP WITH THE GIRL! SHE DID KILL HER HUSBAND, BY THE WAY, BUT NOW SHE'LL ONLY GET LIFE! YOU'RE THE WORST TYPE OF KILLER, MARKSON! TAKING THE LAW IN YOUR OWN HANDS!



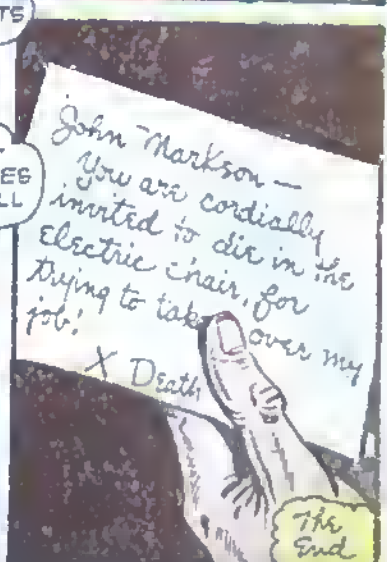
HAH-HAH! YOU FOOLS! I'VE BEATEN YOU AFTER ALL! I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY, OF A BAD HEART! I'LL NEVER—(CHUCKLE)—LIVE TO BE EXECUTED! HEE-HEE-HEE! THE JOKE'S ON YOU!

YOU'RE STILL WRONG, MARKSON! THE JOKE IS ON YOU!



THE NURSE GOT THE REPORTS MIXED UP! YOU GOT A LETTER INTENDED FOR ANOTHER MAN! THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOU BUT SEVERE INDIGESTION—SOMETIMES IT MASQUERADES AS HEART TROUBLE! YOU'LL LIVE—TO DIE IN THE CHAIR!

H-HUH! ONLY INDIGESTION! NO! YAAAAAAA!

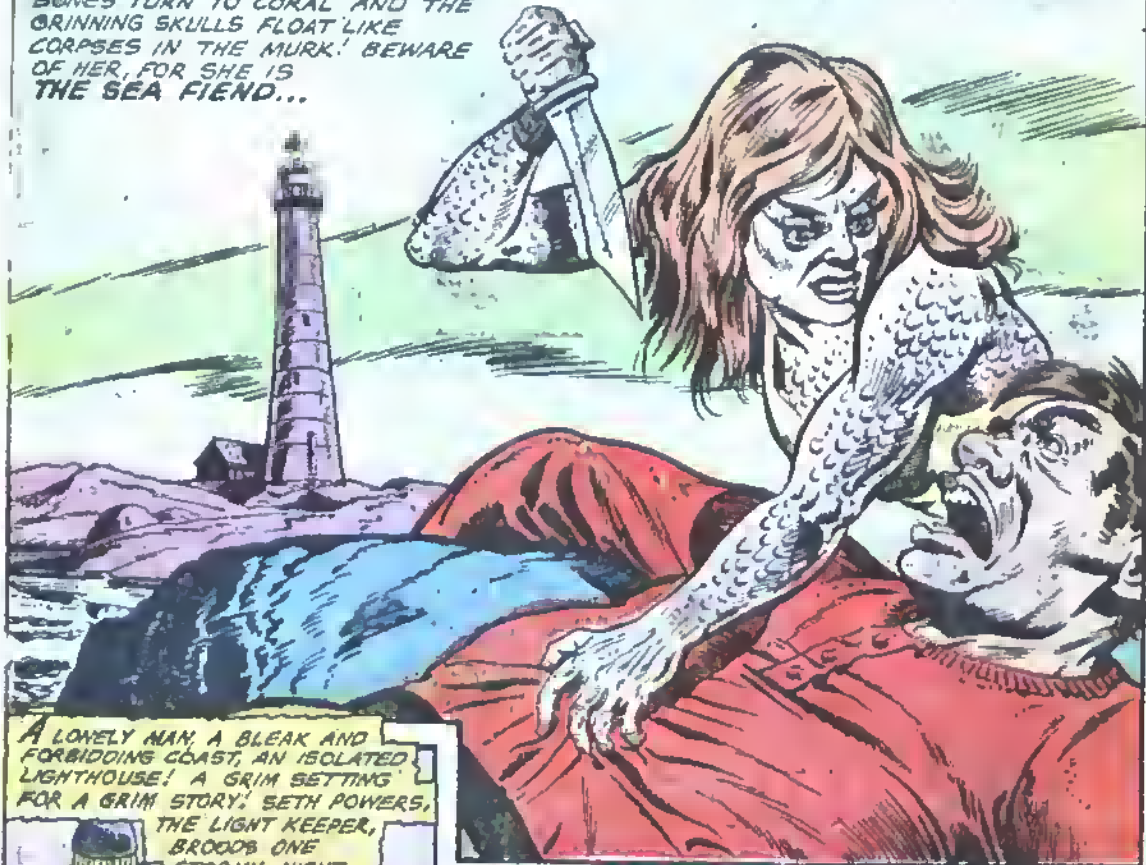


John Markson— You are cordially invited to die in the electric chair, for trying to take over my job! X Death

The End

DEMONS OF THE DEEP

FATHOMS DOWN, IN THE GREEN DEPTHS WHERE LIVE UNGUESSED HORRORS, AND SUN-LIGHT NEVER PENETRATES, THERE WAS A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE KINGDOM RULED BY A CREATURE WHO WAS NEITHER HUMAN NOR FISH! ONCE A YEAR, TORTURED BY A FIENDISH THIRST WHICH ONLY BLOOD COULD SLAKE, THIS SHE-THING CAME TO THE SURFACE AND VISITED SOME UNWARY MORTAL! THEN DOWN INTO THE GRISLY CAVERNS SHE DRAGGED HER PREY, DOWN INTO THE ECHOING CAVERNS WHERE BONES TURN TO CORAL AND THE GRINNING SKULLS FLOAT LIKE CORPSES IN THE MURK! BEWARE OF HER, FOR SHE IS THE SEA FIEND...

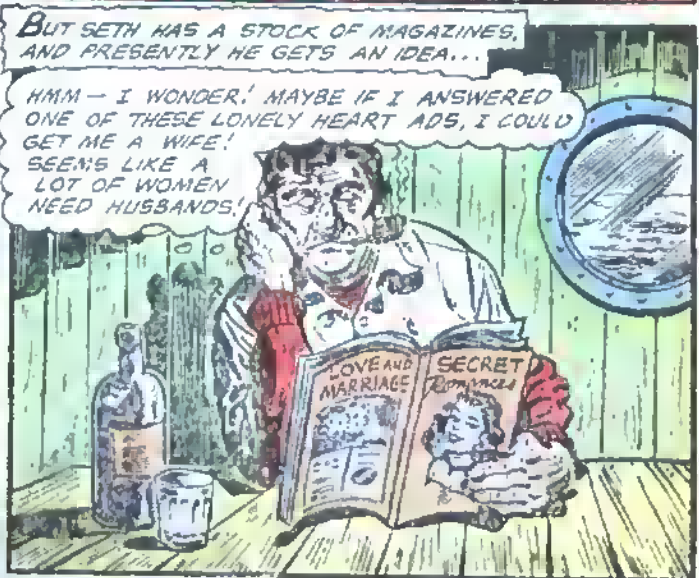


A LONELY MAN, A BLEAK AND FORBIDDING COAST, AN ISOLATED LIGHTHOUSE! A GRIM SETTING FOR A GRIM STORY! SETH POWERS, THE LIGHT KEEPER, BROODS ONE STORMY NIGHT...

I'M GOING CRAZY OUT HERE! I NEED SOME COMPANY! A WIFE — BUT WHO WOULD MARRY ME AND LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

BUT SETH HAS A STOCK OF MAGAZINES, AND PRESENTLY HE GETS AN IDEA...

HMM — I WONDER! MAYBE IF I ANSWERED ONE OF THESE LONELY HEART ADS, I COULD GET ME A WIFE! SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WOMEN NEED HUSBANDS!



NOW LET ME SEE! DEAR LOVE-
LORN AGENCY, MY NAME IS SETH
POWERS AND I AM A LIGHT-
HOUSE KEEPER! I SURE NEED
A WIFE AND I WOULD BE THANK-
FUL IF YOU WOULD PUT ME IN
TOUCH WITH A NICE WOMAN...



SUDDENLY... HUH!
NOW
WHAT'S GONE WRONG
WITH THAT BLASTED
LIGHT? THE POWER
IS OKAY, SO IT MUST
BE A FUSE! AND JUST
WHEN I WAS GETTING
ALONG SO WELL WITH
MY LETTER!



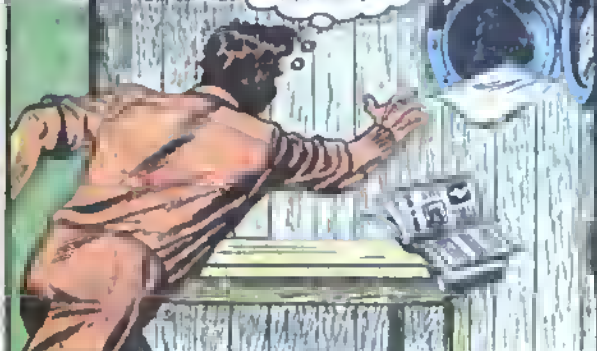
HE SOON FINDS THE TROUBLE
AND MAKES REPAIRS! THE
LIGHT FLASHES ON AGAIN...

HAH, IT WAS ONLY A FUSE
AFTER ALL! NOW I'LL FINISH
MY LETTER AND SEND IT INTO
THE MAINLAND THE NEXT
TIME THE BOAT COMES
OUT!



BUT A FREAKISH BREEZE SNEEPS
THROUGH THE LIGHTHOUSE...

DARN IT! THERE GOES MY LETTER,
BLOWING RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!
BUT MAYBE I CAN STILL CATCH IT!
I'D HATE TO WRITE IT ALL OVER
AGAIN!



TOO LATE...

OH-OH! GOT AWAY FROM ME!
BLOWING DOWN INTO THE OCEAN!
WELL, TO HECK WITH IT! I'M NOT
GONNA WRITE ANOTHER! WRITING
LETTERS IS HARD WORK FOR ME!

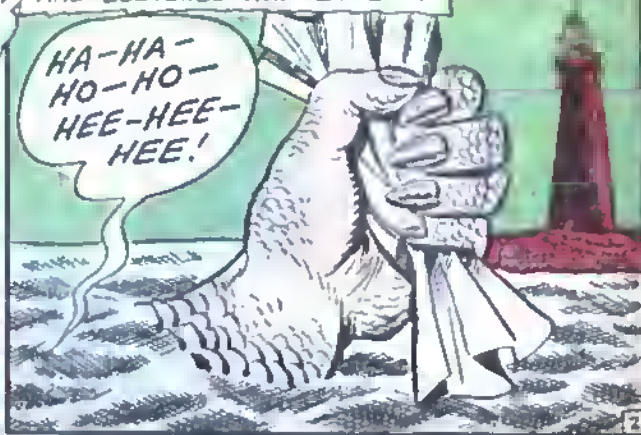


HEH-HEH! MAYBE A MERMAID WILL
READ IT AND COME TO SEE ME! OR
MAYBE I'LL BE BETTER OFF WITH-
OUT A WIFE AFTER ALL! IT WAS ONLY
A CRAZY IDEA, AND I'M TOO OLD A
DOG TO CHANGE MY
TRICKS!



THERE IS A TERRIBLE PROPHECY IN HIS WORDS—
BUT HOW CAN HE SEE THE GROTESQUE HAND
THAT REACHES UP FROM THE FOAMING WAVES
AND CLUTCHES THE LETTER...

HA-HA-
HO-HO-
HEE-HEE-
HEE!



LATER, AS SETH PREPARES FOR BED...

HO-HUM, ANOTHER DAY WASTED ON THIS STINKING JOB! WELL, THE LIGHT IS ALL SET FOR THE NIGHT, SO I'LL JUST GET TO BED AND CATCH SOME SLEEP! HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

S-SOMEBODY KNOCKING AT THE DOOR DOWN-STAIRS! S-BUT WHO? HOW COULD ANYONE GET HERE? THE MAIN-LAND ALWAYS CALLS ME WHENEVER A BOAT IS COMING OUT!

OKAY, I'M COMING! NO NEED TO KNOCK THE DOOR DOWN, WHOEVER YOU ARE! GEE, I STILL CAN'T FIGURE WHO COULD BE OUT HERE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!



DOWN THE DARK CIRCULAR STAIRS HE GOES, TO WHERE THE CRYING KNOCKING CONTINUES...

SOMEHOW I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT KNOCKING! MAYBE I'D BE SMART NOT TO OPEN THE DOOR, BUT I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHO IT CAN BE!

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK



THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN...

IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO ANSWER! LET ME IN AT ONCE!

HUH! A D-DAME! BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, LADY?



AND SO THE STRANGE WOMAN FROM THE NIGHT TAKES COMMAND. IT IS ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE IS ALREADY MARRIED TO SETH POWERS...

I'VE COME TO ANSWER YOUR AD, OF COURSE! YOU WROTE A LETTER, D-DON'T YOU? ASKING FOR A WIFE! WELL, I'M GOING TO BE YOUR WIFE! NOW PLEASE SHOW ME TO MY ROOM!

BUT, LADY! I DID I MEAN - DID YOU SAY YOUR ROOM?



A BOAT BROUGHT ME OVER FROM THE MAINLAND! BUT I'M TOO TIRED TO TALK TONIGHT! IN THE MORNING I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU! BUT NOW I MUST HAVE PRIVACY!

S-SURE! BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT!



AT THE ENTRANCE TO HIS ROOM THE WOMAN TURNS AND...

I'LL JUST TAKE YOUR ROOM! AND HERE IS A KISS FOR YOU, SO YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE'RE MARRIED!

HEY!
G-GOSH, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE A WOMAN KISSED ME!

THE DOOR CLOSES IN HIS FACE, LEAVING HIM NUMB AND WONDERING — AND FRIGHTENED...

BBBB—HER LIPS! SO C-COLD AND DANK! AND SHE WAS WET! WET ALL OVER AS THOUGH SHE HAD BEEN IN THE SEA! ONLY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

BUT ON A NIGHT OF WIND AND STORM, WITH THE SEA GROWLING IN RAGE, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE! SO HE CHECKS...

HEY, TIM? THIS IS SETH AT THE LIGHTHOUSE! DID YOU BRING A DAME OUT HERE TONIGHT? YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A DAME? ARE YOU NUTS? I'M NOT SILLY ENOUGH TO TAKE A BOAT OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS! YOU MUST BE SEEING THINGS!

BUT AS HE HANGS UP...

SEEING THINGS, HUH? HEY, THE LIGHTS...GONE OUT AGAIN! AND I KNOW I'M NOT IMAGINING THAT! I'VE GOT TO FIX IT QUICK!

AND... IT'S A REAL POWER FAILURE THIS TIME! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THE CABLES! AND THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN TO THE GHED AND START THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR! AND FAST!

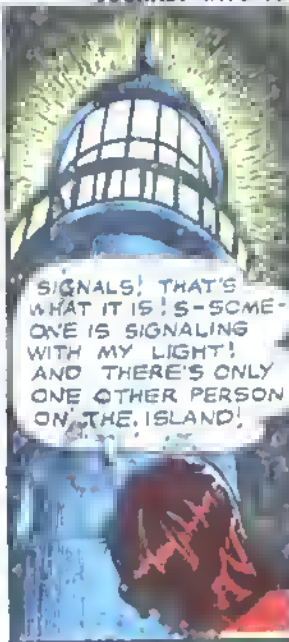
A LOT OF FUNNY THINGS ARE HAPPENING AROUND HERE TONIGHT! I WRITE THAT LETTER WHICH I DON'T MAIL, BUT A DAME SHOWS UP ANYWAY! ONLY THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A DAME ON THE MAINLAND! NOW THE LIGHTS GO OUT AGAIN!

BUT AS HE REACHES THE GENERATOR SHED, THE LIGHT SUDDENLY FLASHES ON AGAIN...

NOW LOOK AT THAT! IT'S WORKING! ONLY SOMETHING IS STILL WRONG — THE LIGHT SHOULDN'T BE FLASHING OFF AND ON LIKE THAT!

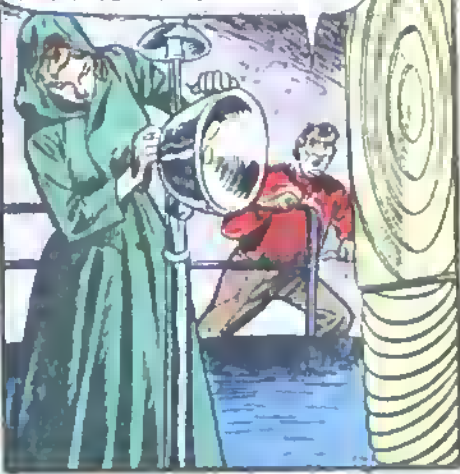


SIGNALS! THAT'S WHAT IT IS! S-SOMEONE IS SIGNALING WITH MY LIGHT! AND THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON ON THE ISLAND!



HE RACES FRANTICALLY TO THE TOP OF THE STAIRS...

HEY, LADY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT LIGHT? GET AWAY FROM IT! YOU WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE?



STAND BACK, YOU FOOL! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! I AM SIGNALING TO MY PEOPLE!

YOUR P-PEOPLE?



BUT THE GIRL THROWS BACK HER CLOAK, AND SETH POWERS WILTS WITH TERROR AT WHAT HE SEES...

YOU SEE! I HAVE SCALES! FINS! I AM HALF-FISH!

EEEEEEEE— IT'S T-TRUE!



YES! IT IS TIME NOW FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH! I AM NOT A HUMAN BEING! I AM A QUEEN — QUEEN OF THE FISH PEOPLE! AND I WILL BE YOUR BRIDE!

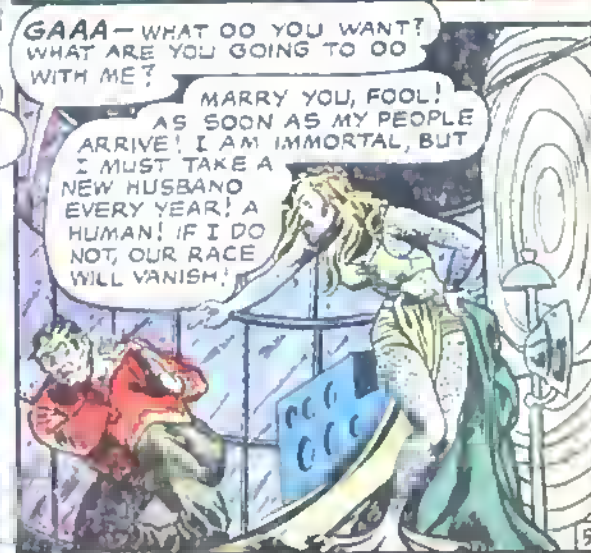
YOWW — MY BRIDE!

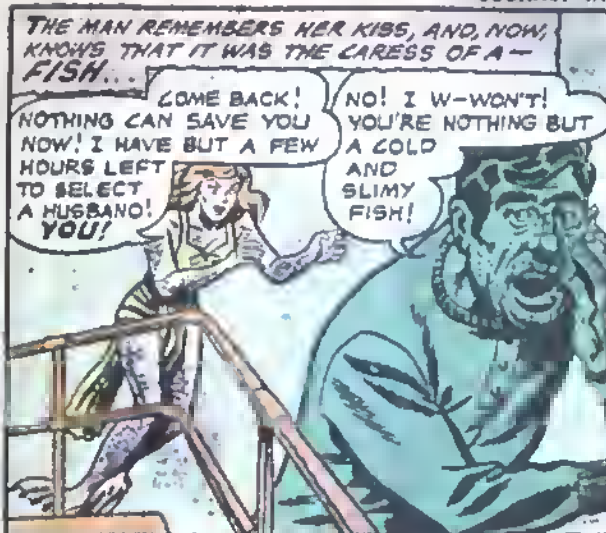
I GET IT NOW! SHE'S AN ESCAPED LOONEY!



GAAA — WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?

MARRY YOU, FOOL! AS SOON AS MY PEOPLE ARRIVE! I AM IMMORTAL, BUT I MUST TAKE A NEW HUSBAND EVERY YEAR! A HUMAN! IF I DO NOT, OUR RACE WILL VANISH!

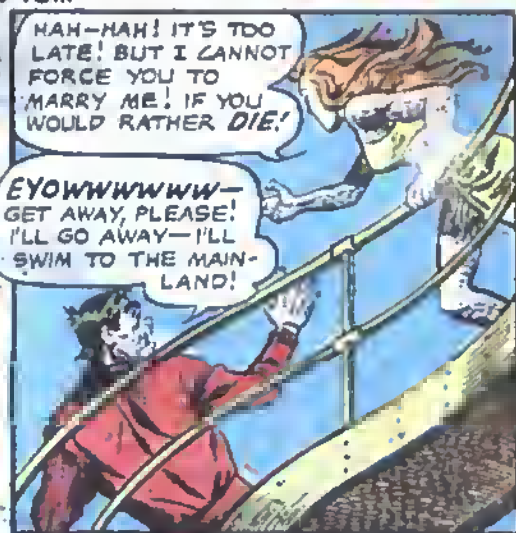




THE MAN REMEMBERS HER KISS, AND, NOW, KNOWS THAT IT WAS THE CARESS OF A— FISH...

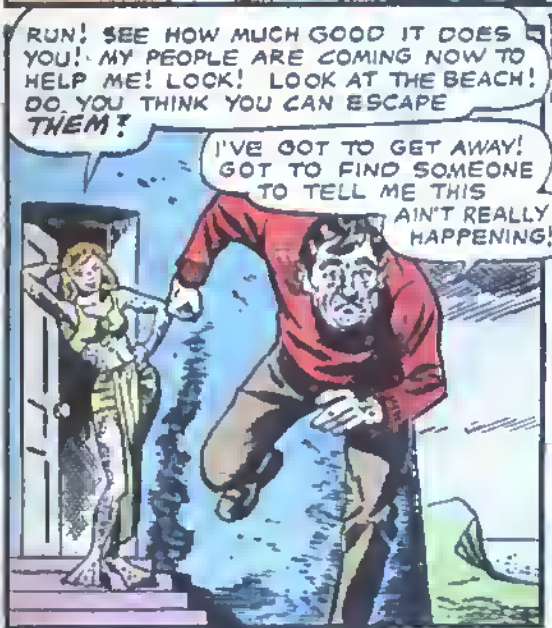
COME BACK! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW! I HAVE BUT A FEW HOURS LEFT TO SELECT A HUSBAND! YOU!

NO! I W-WON'T! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A COLD AND SLIMY FISH!



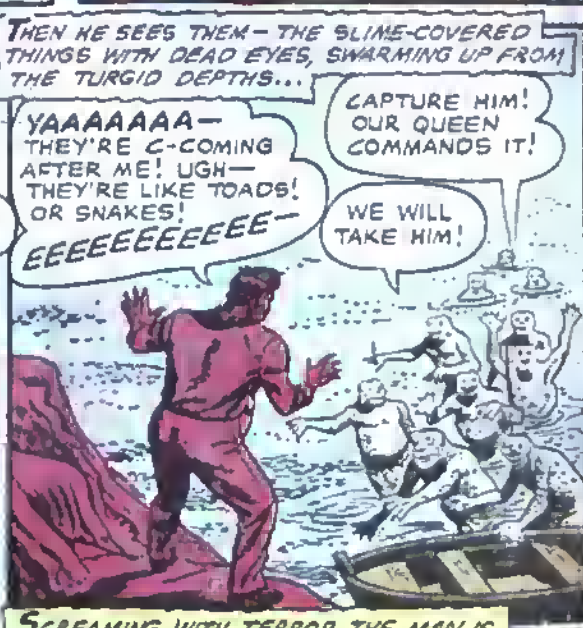
HAH-HAH! IT'S TOO LATE! BUT I CANNOT FORCE YOU TO MARRY ME! IF YOU WOULD RATHER DIE!

EYOWWWWWW— GET AWAY, PLEASE! I'LL GO AWAY—I'LL SWIM TO THE MAIN-LAND!



RUN! SEE HOW MUCH GOOD IT DOES YOU! MY PEOPLE ARE COMING NOW TO HELP ME! LOOK! LOOK AT THE BEACH! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE THEM?

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! GOT TO FIND SOMEONE TO TELL ME THIS AIN'T REALLY HAPPENING!

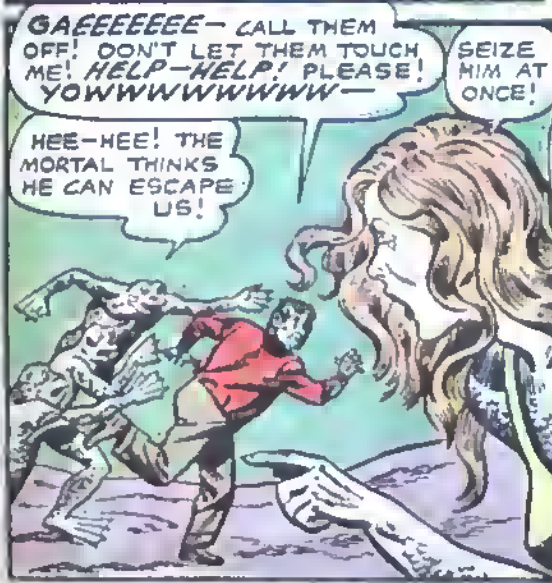


THEN HE SEES THEM— THE SLIME-COVERED THINGS WITH DEAD EYES, SWARMING UP FROM THE TURGID DEPTHS...

YAAAAAAA— THEY'RE C-COMING AFTER ME! UGH— THEY'RE LIKE TOADS! OR SNAKES! EEEEEEEEEEE—

CAPTURE HIM! OUR QUEEN COMMANDS IT!

WE WILL TAKE HIM!



GAAAAA— CALL THEM OFF! DON'T LET THEM TOUCH ME! HELP-HELP! PLEASE! YOWWWWWWWW—

SEIZE HIM AT ONCE!

HEE-HEE! THE MORTAL THINKS HE CAN ESCAPE US!



SCREAMING WITH TERROR, THE MAN IS GRASPED BY THE SEA DEMONS, FROM THEIR GAPING MAWS COMES THE STENCH OF DEATH AND CORRUPTION...

L-LIKE ICE COLD TENTACLES G-GRIPPING ME! D-DRAGGING ME OVER TO THAT ROCK! BUT WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH ME! WHAT?

OUR QUEEN AWAITS! HURRY!

SEE, SHE SHARPENS THE KNIFE FOR HIM!

FINALLY HE IS TAKEN TO A GROUP OF ROCKS NEAR THE BEA! HIS SCREAMS GROW AS HE SEES THAT THE ROCKS FORM A NATURAL ALTAR...

PUT HIM THERE! HE SHALL HAVE HIS CHOICE NOW! MARRIAGE WITH ME—OR DEATH!

KILL HIM, MY QUEEN! YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS ONE!

EEEEEEEEEE—HELP! HELP!

THERE IS NO TIME! YOU KNOW THAT TO KEEP OUR RACE ALIVE I MUST WED A HUMAN BEFORE THE MOON WANES TONIGHT! WE HAVE ALREADY WASTED TOO MUCH TIME! BUT IF HE FAILS US, WE WILL HAVE BLOOD REVENGE!

OOOYAAA—EEYIIII—HELP!

NOW MAKE UP YOUR MIND! BE MY KING, DESCEND TO THE SEA PLACE WITH ME, AND LIVE! REFUSE ME AND—DIE!

WHICH DO YOU FEAR MOST? MY SCALES, MY FINS, THE ICY COLDNESS OF MY BREATH AND BLOOD? OR THIS BLADE OF SHARP CORAL? IN THIS LAST MINUTE, I BID YOU SPEAK!

THEN, IN A GURGLING CRY...

NO! I'LL DO IT! SPARE ME!

GOOD! SO YOU LIVE!

HEE—HEE! HA—HA—HA—HA—

YAAAAAA!

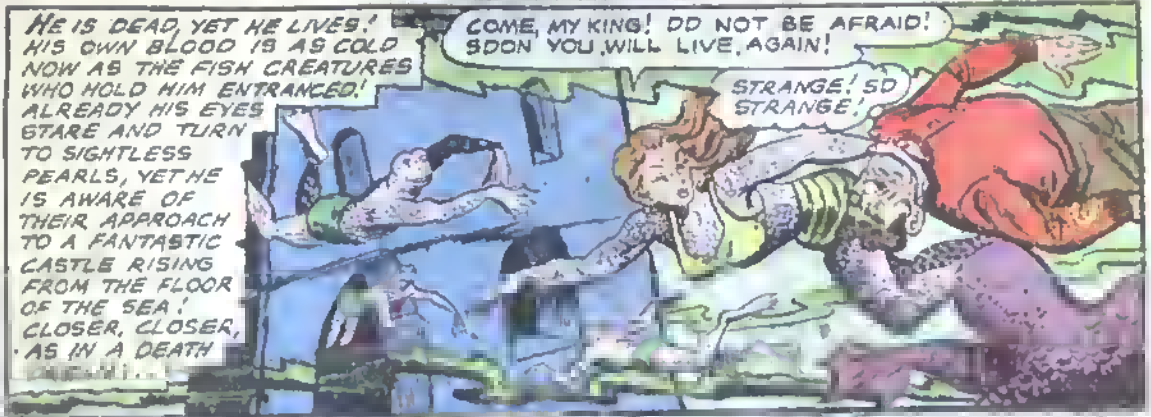
KILL!

EEEEEE—YOU CAN'T! I'LL DROWN!

OF COURSE YOU WILL DROWN, FOOL! BUT YOU WILL LIVE AGAIN! BE PATIENT AND YOU WILL SEE...

COME, MORTAL! TO OUR KINGDOM UNDER THE SEA!

DOWN BENEATH THE STORM-TOSSED WAVES HE IS TAKEN! THE WATER CHANGES COLOR, GROWS COLD, AS A DEAD MAN'S BLOOD! DEEPER, EVER DEEPER, AS HE CHOKES AND STRANGLES AND DIES! THEN, AS HIS LUNGS BURST, HE IS CONSCIOUS OF A NEW KIND OF LIFE...



HE IS DEAD, YET HE LIVES! HIS OWN BLOOD IS AS COLD NOW AS THE FISH CREATURES WHO HOLD HIM ENTRANCED. ALREADY HIS EYES STARE AND TURN TO SIGHTLESS PEARLS, YET HE IS AWARE OF THEIR APPROACH TO A FANTASTIC CASTLE RISING FROM THE FLOOR OF THE SEA! CLOSER, CLOSER, AS IN A DEATH DREAM...

COME, MY KING! DO NOT BE AFRAID! SOON YOU WILL LIVE AGAIN!

STRANGE! SO STRANGE!

THEY FLOAT INTO THE UNDERWATER CASTLE, WHERE IN A GREAT CHAMBER THERE STANDS A THRONE OF GOLDEN CORAL...

I AM DEAD! I KNOW I AM! B-BUT I CAN SEE AND HEAR, AND UNDERSTAND! AS THOUGH I HAD ANOTHER BODY INSIDE THE ONE THAT IS DEAD!

HAIL TO OUR NEW KING!

HERE IS OUR THRONE! HERE WE WILL RULE THE FISH PEOPLE TOGETHER!

F-FOR ME? YOU MEAN I'M REALLY THE KING OF THIS PLACE? BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? I'M DEAD!

YOUR OLD BODY IS DEAD! BUT YOU LIVE, AND IN A LITTLE TIME YOU WILL BE LIKE US! BUT YOUR BLOOD...

MY BLOOD? WHAT ABOUT MY BLOOD? W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

TO BE AS WE ARE, YOU MUST HAVE BLOOD LIKE OURS! COLD, FISH BLOOD! AND NOW...

LATER, TWO OF THE FISH MONSTERS TOW A LIFELESS, FLACCID BODY UPWARD TO THE STORMY SURFACE OF THE SEA...

THIS OLD SHELL! WE MUST GET RID OF IT! HIS NEW BODY ALREADY LOOKS LIKE US!

HE WILL MAKE A GOOD KING - FOR A YEAR!

DAYS LATER, A BODY IS WASHED ASHORE AND IS EXAMINED BY THE POLICE...

IT'S OLD SETH POWERS, ALL RIGHT; FUNNY, TOO! NOT A MARK ON HIM, YET NOT A DROP OF BLOOD IN HIS BODY!

AND THE LOOK ON HIS FACE! AS IF HE KNEW A SECRET THAT NOBODY ELSE KNOWS!

WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS ONE!



GHOST CLINIC

by Doctor Shode



BONY HANDS OF DEATH

THE FEEL of death, that was what he didn't like. And death had been a kind of constant companion now, for months. It walked at his elbow. It clanked its bony skeleton. Its deathly-white finger bones were always on his shoulder, reminding him. And when he turned to look, even in the middle of a crowded street, even with Etty at his side, he'd seen death crouching somewhere. Behind a car; on top of a bus; on the front page of the morning newspaper. And death always grinned at him. It had big, hollow eyes, death had; and fallen chaps; and always that mocking, deadly grin.

He stopped his car in front of the house and got out. He stood there in the late evening light that filtered drearily through the dripping trees and cursed. It had been raining almost interruptedly, now, for a whole week. Of course, rain would make the ground soft. Particularly the ground of a graveyard.

And tonight, he knew, he would be digging a grave.

A glance up and down the block showed him how deserted the street was. The nearest house was half a block away. And his and Etty's place was just on the edge of the little country village.

He wound his fingers tightly round the hilt of the gleaming clasp-knife he'd bought over in Hilldale.

The rain came down, its soft voice seeming to repeat a funeral song. Death, death, the rain sang. It ate its way into everything. The lawn was almost a lake now. The reed curtains on the porch hung sodden and bedraggled.

Abruptly, he wondered what the grave would look like now. The grave markers would be quite alone in their dull grey drabness and the ground would be soft, very soft. Perhaps, after all, the rain would be an ally.

ANSON MORBY chuckled at last. After all, it had only been half a year since he and Etty had poisoned her father. The grave had still not settled. A sharp spade would turn the dirt easily. And it would be simple to locate her mother's coffin, remove the top of the outer iron

covering that enclosed it and bury Etty forever. Then Etty, her mother and her father would lie together—the Renwicks all gone, at last.

The sharp edge of the knife pricked him as he walked up the path to the house. Too bad he couldn't use aconites on Etty as he and Etty had used it on old Silas Renwick. The common garden weed, so innocent, so deadly, had done its work well. The roots, chopped fine and placed in old Silas' food, had left no trace in the system. Heart failure the doctor had called it. And over the corpse, Anson and Etty had smiled secretly at each other. For now her father's hatred of Anson meant nothing. The following week he had married Etty, no longer just an heiress, but the possessor of a hundred thousand dollars of her father's money.

He whipped the knife from his pocket and looked at it, shuddering. It would have to be the knife, he knew, not aconite root. Ever since her father had died, Etty had fallen prey to the stabs of her own conscience. She loved him, he knew, but she didn't trust him. He put the knife back, opened the door and went in.

"Anson! Anson, darling!" He heard her call as he stood in the entrance hall, taking off his rubbers. Her voice was tense, anxious. Anson Morby smiled. He could guess that his threat had worked.

An instant later she flew into his arms.

He stood there immobile and let her kiss him. It was good to feel one's power over another, know that a word could command or even kill.

"Anson, don't leave me, don't ever leave me," she begged. She stared wildly round the room. "I'm lonely, Anson, when you're away. I keep seeing shadows. Anson . . ." she stared at him in terror. ". . . you don't suppose he might come back? I keep thinking his spirit is in the house, walking on the stairs, hiding on the landing, in the dark!"

"The dead don't walk," Anson said contemptuously. Inwardly he winced; he wished he could believe that himself. There was death at his own elbow, he knew; the death of Silas Renwick. And soon the death of Etty Morby. "You're overwrought." He took a step back. "You drew the money from the bank?" he demanded.

"I took it out," she said breathlessly. "I did everything you told me to, Anson. I didn't tell the clerk we were going to deposit it in that other bank."

ANSON MORBY smiled. When he had threatened to leave her unless she drew her money from the bank, he had told her that it was merely so they could put it in a better one. Etty was stingy with money. It had been easy to frighten her with stories that her present bank was shaky, insecure. And the very act of withdrawing it would strengthen his own story, the story he would tell the police after he had buried Etty. That she had taken the money and run away with a lover.

"Anson, we'll put it in that other bank tomorrow, won't we?" she asked anxiously.

He looked at her, new hatred mounting in his heart. The money was still more precious to her than he was. He saw the years that might have been lengthening out before him. Years of begging her for hand-outs. Years of asking for money. Years of coming to her hat in hand for the cash to buy a suit. He saw her as she always had been at such times—suspicious, miserly, hoarding her fortune as though she couldn't live without it.

He glanced past her, to the dining room. On her sideboard he saw the leather portfolio that held the cash. In fifties and hundreds he'd told her.

"Anson . . ." she began again.

Slowly he drew the knife from his pocket. "Anson!" The scream of her voice was cut off suddenly as horror paralyzed her throat. She backed away from him, mouth-ing sounds like an animal. He came toward her soundlessly, grinning, enjoying the sheer fright on her face.

As she stopped with a jar, her back against the wall, Anson Morby struck.

He watched her crumple. She tried to speak. One little sound came from her mouth, like the plaint of a hurt child. And she died with her eyes not on him, but on the leather portfolio of money.

It wasn't easy to bend and pick her up. Her face, loose, relaxed in death, held an empty, vacuous grin. He put the knife in his pocket, lifted her with an effort. At the door he paused, clicking out the lights with a nudge of his elbow.

QUICKLY he opened the car, put Etty's body in the back seat, got behind the wheel. In the trunk of the car was the spade he would use to turn the earth of the Renwick family grave. And now the rain

was a friend, for after he had buried Etty in the iron covering of her mother's coffin, it would smooth the marks of digging. There would be no trace of what had happened. He could wait months, shed his crocodile tears and then move away. In another state, another town, no one would question where he had got a hundred thousand dollars in cash.

The drive to the cemetery was short. He glanced at his watch as he parked the car near the grave. Nine o'clock on a rainy night. No one would be near a graveyard at that hour. And the rain would cover the car tracks, when he left.

Etty's body slung over his shoulder; the spade in his free hand, Anson plodded toward the Renwick grave. Abruptly he dropped the shovel, drew a flashlight from his pocket. In its glare he saw the grave markers with their silent lettering: *Mary Renwick, 1892-1947; Silas Renwick, 1890-1953*. They tilted drunkenly in the rain.

He put Etty's body on the muddy ground, placed the flashlight on a boulder, so that its fitful beam played on the grave. Then he picked up the shovel and began to dig, casting one fearful glance 'round the graveyard. He knew the dead did not walk. Here, the only reality was death—bony death, grinning its fixed, bitter laugh.

Suddenly he struck iron. He glanced at the marker; Silas Renwick. He shifted his spade and dug to one side. A few feet more, now and . . .

Again he heard the clang of iron on iron. Instantly he doubled his efforts. Within minutes he'd cleared the top of Mary Renwick's iron, outer coffin. He knew from its size that there would be plenty of room inside it for her daughter's body. Mechanically, he bent to unscrew the wing-nut bolts that held the lid down; puffing, he dropped into the trench he'd dug beside the coffin, and lifted the lid.

And then Anson Morby screamed.

Before his eyes the lid of the inner coffin came open with a jerky creaking of hinges. Two bright, beady eyes glared at him from within. And the bony hands that writhed toward his throat caught him in an irresistible grip. Choking, forced back against the coffin lid as the horror from within ripped the breath from his body, his dying eyes came to rest on the grave markers above him. It was vengeance killing him, he knew; death-driven vengeance by dead hands. But it was also the rain that had killed him. The rain, causing the grave markers to shift position, leading him to open, by mistake, the iron, outer coffin of the man he had helped to murder by poison—*Silas Renwick!*

The Stolen Corpse

ABOVE ALL THINGS HE WANTED A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR HIS OWN - BUT, FATE HAD OTHER PLANS FOR HIM. SO, ONE AWFUL NIGHT WHEN THE WIND HOWLED IN ANGUISH AND THE DEAD STIRRED UNEASILY IN THEIR GRAVES, HE DETERMINED TO MAKE A CREATURE OF HIS OWN. WHAT HE FASHIONED WAS HORRIBLE BEYOND ALL BELIEF! COME NOW AND MEET - LITTLE MISS MURDER...

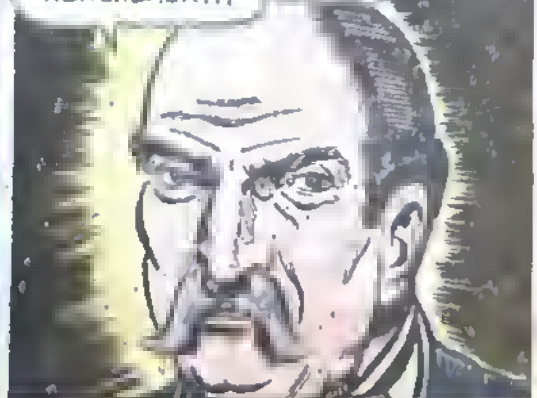
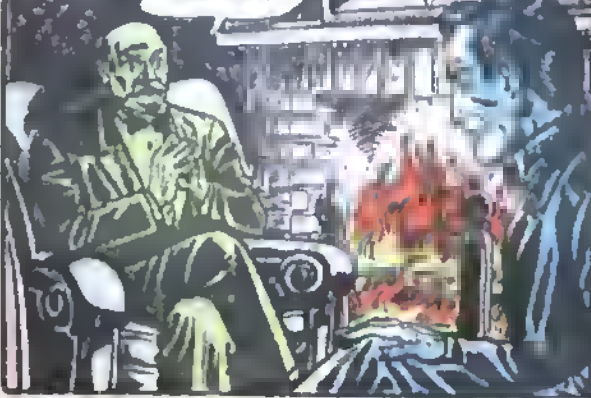


IN THE FACULTY CLUB OF A SMALL COLLEGE, TWO MEN SIT BESIDE A SNUG FIRE AND THE STORY BEGINS...

BY THE WAY, JIM, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU REMEMBER PROFESSOR TEMPLE...

LARRY TEMPLE! I--I'VE HEARD STRANGE STORIES ABOUT HIM!

NONE AS STRANGE AS THE TRUE STORY, I'LL WAGER! IT'S A WILD NIGHT OUTSIDE, AND THE STORY ITSELF IS A WILD AND TERRIBLE ONE! PROFESSOR TEMPLE TAUGHT HERE, YOU KNOW! HE WAS A BRILLIANT MAN, BUT GROTESQUE, AND WITH A HUNCHBACK...



"TEMPLE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF HIS UGLINESS! TO MAKE IT WORSE HE WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH SANDRA THOMPSON, ONE OF OUR ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS. FOR A LONG TIME HE WORSHIPPED HER AT A DISTANCE, BUT ONE NIGHT AT A DANCE..."



SANDRA, I MUST TALK TO YOU! PLEASE COME OUT ON THE TERRACE WHERE WE CAN BE ALONE!

B-BUT, PROFESSOR TEMPLE, I HAVE THE NEXT DANCE WITH BRUCE! WELL, FOR JUST A MINUTE!



POOR LITTLE MAN! I FEEL SO TERRIBLY SORRY FOR HIM! BUT I DO HOPE HE DOESN'T PROPOSE—OR TRY TO TOUCH ME!



BUT TEMPLE LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF COMPLETELY...

N-NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! PLEASE! I—I CAN'T STAND IT!

BUT, SANDRA, I LOVE YOU! YOU MUST MARRY ME! YOU MUST!

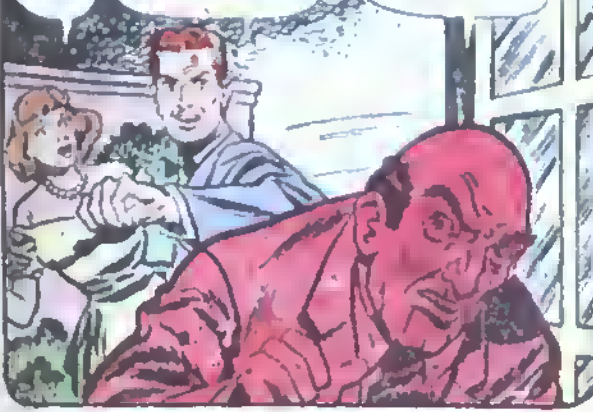


"THERE WAS A DREADFUL SCENE! BRUCE MANNING, SANDRA'S ESCORT, FORCIBLY EJECTED TEMPLE..."

N-NO, BRUCE! DON'T HURT HIM!

I WON'T! WHO WANTS TO HIT A DIRTY LITTLE CRIPPLE? BUT OUT HE GOES!

C-CRIPPLE, EH? YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! I'LL GET EVEN WITH YOU SOMEHOW!



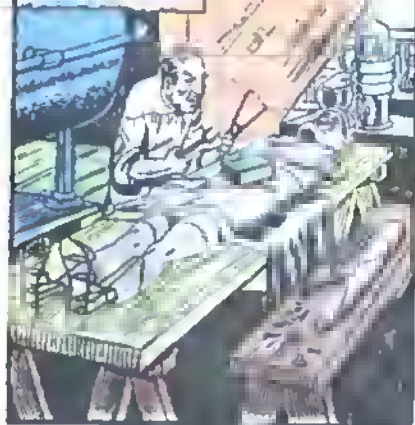
GOSH, SIR, THAT'S SOME YARN! BUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

SOMETHING TERRIBLE AND TRAGIC! TEMPLE, YOU SEE, WAS A SPECIALIST IN CYBERNETICS—ELECTRIC BRAINS! BUT HE ALSO HAD A CERTAIN HOBBY...

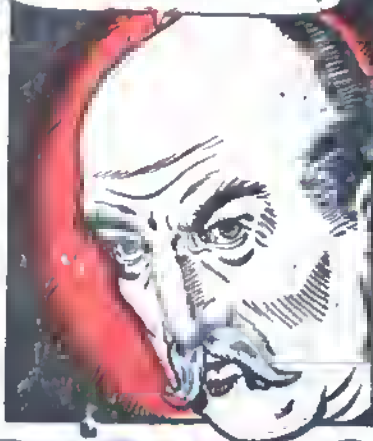


JOURNEY INTO FEAR

"UNKNOWN TO THE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES, HE WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH ANOTHER SORT OF ROBOT. AND HE HAD THE FIENDISH AMBITIONS OF A MADMAN..."



HE WANTED TO MAKE A ROBOT THAT WAS AS NEAR HUMAN AS POSSIBLE! AND HE HAD ONE SUCH ROBOT HALF COMPLETED WHEN SUDDENLY SANDRA THOMPSON DIED!



THE GIRL D-DIED, SIR! WHAT A PITY!

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! BECAUSE TEMPLE NOW SAW HIS CHANCE TO HAVE THE GIRL HE WANTED—EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS DEAD! ONE NIGHT...



HEH-HEH! SO MY LOVELY SANDRA IS DEAD! THEY BURIED HER THIS AFTERNOON, RIGHT HERE! AND I—(CHUCKLE)—SHALL RESURRECT HER!



LAUGHED AT ME, DID THEY! CALLED ME A CRIPPLE, INSULTED ME BEFORE EVERYONE! SHE COULDN'T BEAR MY TOUCH IN LIFE! I—(HAH-HAH)—WONDER HOW IT WILL BE IN DEATH?



NO COMPLAINTS NOW, MY SWEET! BUT NEVER FEAR, IF MY EXPERIMENT WORKS, I'LL TEACH YOU TO LOVE ME—AND ONLY ME! WE SHALL SEE!



I'LL HAVE TO FORGET MY WORK ON THE OTHER ROBOT FOR A TIME AND CONCENTRATE ON SANDRA! AND I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL! IF PEOPLE KNEW MY PLANS, THEY WOULD LYNCH ME!



"THE NEXT DAY, TEMPLE MADE CERTAIN GRISLY PREPARATIONS..."

"TOO RISKY TO DO MY WORK HERE! I'LL MOVE OUT TO THE WEST COAST, FIND A SECLUDED SPOT! AND I'LL SHIP MY, ER, SPECIMENS IN THESE CRATES!"

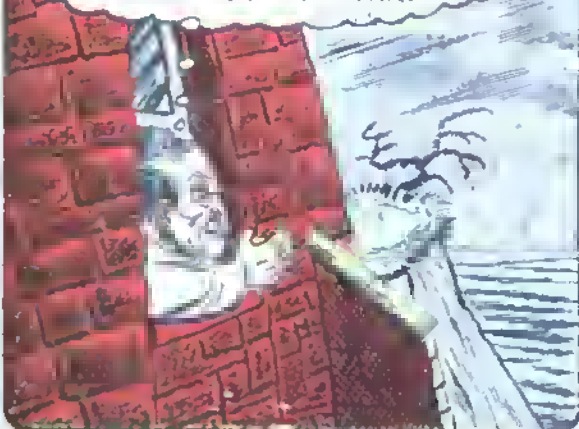


"Y-YOU MEAN HE SHIPPED THE BODY OF THAT POOR DEAD GIRL BY EXPRESS?"

"HE DID! NOBODY SUSPECTED! ON THE COAST HE OUTFITTED ANOTHER LABORATORY IN A DESOLATE SPOT BY THE SEA!"



"THIS IS PERFECT! NOT A NEIGHBOR WITHIN TWENTY MILES! BUT I'VE ALREADY WASTED ENOUGH TIME! I MUST GET TO WORK!"



"YOU MY DEAR DEAD SANDRA, I AM TURNING YOU INTO A ROBOT! I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW ELECTRONIC BRAIN AND I WILL CONTROL IT! I SHALL TEACH YOU WHO IS MASTER THEN!"

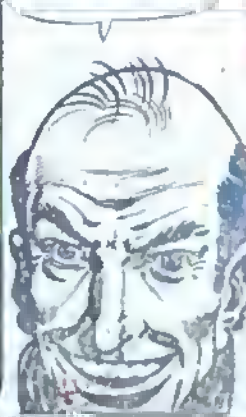


"SOON THE BRAIN WAS COMPLETED..."

"AT LAST! A THING OF BEAUTY! A PRODUCT OF A GREAT GENIUS—ME! AND MY NEW TECHNIQUE HAS KEPT THE BODY OF THE GIRL IN PERFECT SHAPE!"



"ONCE THE BRAIN IS INSTALLED, SHE WILL LIVE AGAIN—ONLY THIS TIME AS A ROBOT—MY CREATURE!"



"DEFTLY AND SURELY THE EVIL GENIUS COMPLETED HIS WORK..."

"THERE! IT'S DONE! NOW A CURRENT OF ELECTRICITY TO ACTIVATE IT, AND SHE WILL LIVE! AND BE MINE AT LAST!"



"TEMPLE DID IT! SOON THE GIRL WAS ACTUALLY ALIVE AGAIN, A LIVING CREATURE WITH AN ELECTRIC BRAIN..."

YOU—ARE—
THE—MAN—
I—LOVE!

THAT'S
RIGHT,
SANDRA!

INCREDIBLE! PERFECT!
SHE APPEARS TO BE A
COMPLETELY NORMAL
WOMAN!

EXCUSE ME, SIR! I DON'T MEAN TO SEEM SKEPTICAL, BUT AFTER ALL...

I KNOW! BUT THIS STORY HAS BEEN VERIFIED! BUT TO GET BACK—WHAT TEMPLE HAD DONE WAS TO INVENT A BRAIN EVEN BETTER THAN NATURE'S OWN! AFTER A MONTH...

I AM GLAD WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED! IT SEEMS SO RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD BE MAN AND WIFE!

OF COURSE IT DOES, MY DEAR! AFTER ALL, I BUILT THAT THOUGHT INTO YOUR BRAIN!

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN A WEIRD AND TERRIFYING CEREMONY! OF ALL THE CROWD IN THE CHURCH, ONLY TEMPLE AND HIS ROBOT BRIDE KNEW THE HORRIBLE TRUTH..."

I DO!



"BECAUSE TEMPLE, TO AVENGE AN INSULT, HAD BUILT INTO HER BRAIN THE AWFUL KNOWLEDGE THAT SHE WAS ONLY A ROBOT, A CREATURE..."

YOU UNDERSTAND, SANDRA? YOU ARE NOT REALLY A HUMAN! I MADE YOU! I AM YOUR MASTER!

YES, I UNDERSTAND!

"SUDDENLY, TEMPLE NOTICED SOMETHING..."

IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY HEART?

NO! NOTHING WODD, IMPORTANT! I HAD TO DO A LITTLE WORK ON HER HEART—NOW IT'S TICKING INSTEAD OF BEATING!



"TEMPLE SOON FORGOT ABOUT THE STRANGE SOUND OF SANDRA'S HEART! HE TAUGHT HER TO ASSIST HIM IN THE LABORATORY..."

DO YOU INTEND TO BUILD ANOTHER ROBOT, LARRY?

YES! I'VE HAD THAT OLD MODEL AROUND A LONG TIME! BUT NOW I'LL FINISH IT!



"BUT ONE DAY, TO HIS DISMAY, HE FOUND THE CHASSIS OF THE OTHER ROBOT MISSING..."

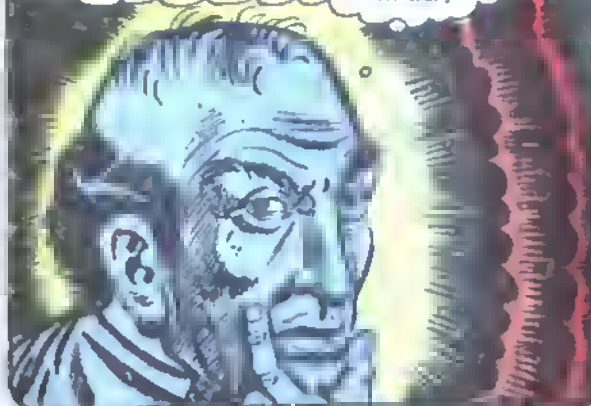
THAT'S STRANGE! WHERE CAN IT BE? SANDRA WAS WORKING ON IT ONLY YESTERDAY...



COME TO, THINK OF IT, SHE HAS BEEN ACTING A BIT ODD LATELY! MAYBE HER BRAIN NEEDS A LITTLE WORK ON IT—SOME OF THE REACTOR COILS MIGHT BE WORN! BUT I'LL WAIT AND OBSERVE HER FOR A WHILE!

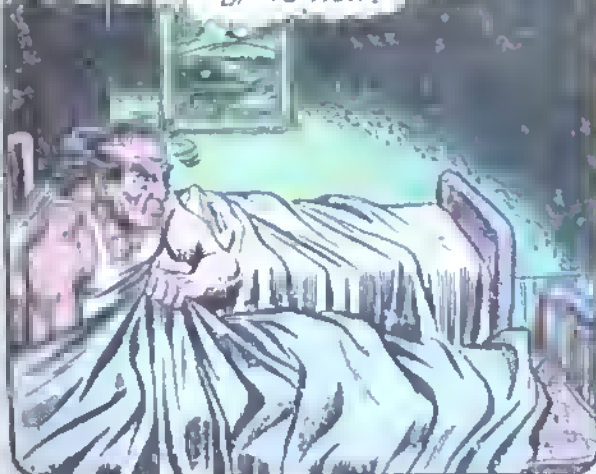
I'VE GOT A HUNCH ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME NEXT, SIR!

THAT'S MORE THAN TEMPLE HAD! AS BRILLIANT AS HE WAS, HE COULDN'T HAVE DREAMED OF WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! THE



FUNNY SOUNDS FROM DOWNSTAIRS! AND SANDRA'S NOT IN HER BED! I'D BETTER GO SEE WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW!

THAT NOISE—COMING FROM THE LABORATORY! AND THE LIGHT IS ON! WELL, SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO PLEASE ME, SO SHE'S WORKING HARD! WITH THAT BRAIN, OF COURSE, SHE DOESN'T NEED MUCH SLEEP!



"THE AMAZED TEMPLE SAW THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WITH SANDRA..."

A MAN! A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN! BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHERE COULD HE HAVE COME FROM?

"AS HE LISTENED, HIS AMAZEMENT AND ANGER GREW! A WILDLY INCREDIBLE THING HAD HAPPENED..."

THAT ISN'T A MAN! IT'S THE OTHER ROBOT! THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON! THE ONE THAT WAS MISSING!

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, SANDRA!

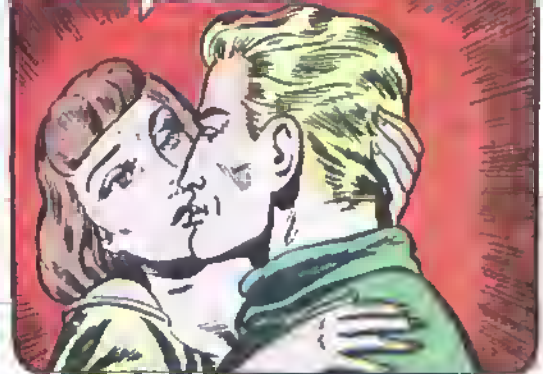
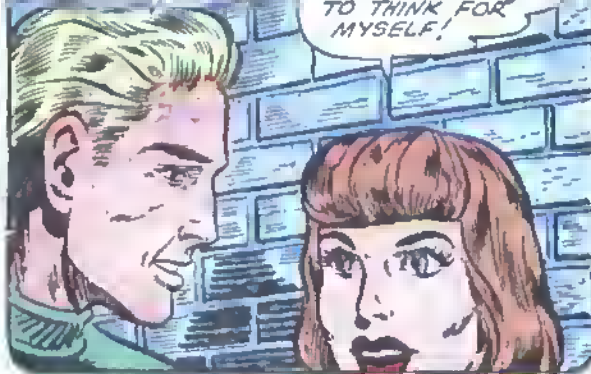


I KNOW WE ARE BOTH ONLY ROBOTS, BUT NOW DID YOU EVER LEARN ENOUGH TO MAKE ME? WHY DID YOU COMPLETE ME IN SECRET?

BECAUSE I HATE HIM! TEMPLE! AND EVEN HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW WELL MY BRAIN FUNCTIONS! FOR MONTHS NOW I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO THINK FOR MYSELF!

AND I NEED SOMEONE TO LOVE! SOMEONE YOUNG AND HANDSOME—ANOTHER ROBOT! SO I MADE YOU, AS HE MADE ME, AND NOW WE WILL GO AWAY TOGETHER!

IF YOU SAY SO, MY LOVE!



YOU SEE THE DREADFUL IRONY OF IT, JIM! TEMPLE HAD CREATED A CREATURE WHO COULD ACTUALLY OUT-THINK HIM! AND SHE LOATHED HIM! SO JUST AS HE HAD MADE HER, SHE MADE A ROBOT FOR HERSELF!

FANTASTIC! ROBOT MAKING A ROBOT! BUT WHAT DID TEMPLE DO?

"HE FLEW INTO AN INSANE RAGE..."

STOP! D-DON'T HARM HIM! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!

I KNOW, YOU MECHANICAL MINX! BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU LATER! HE COMES FIRST!

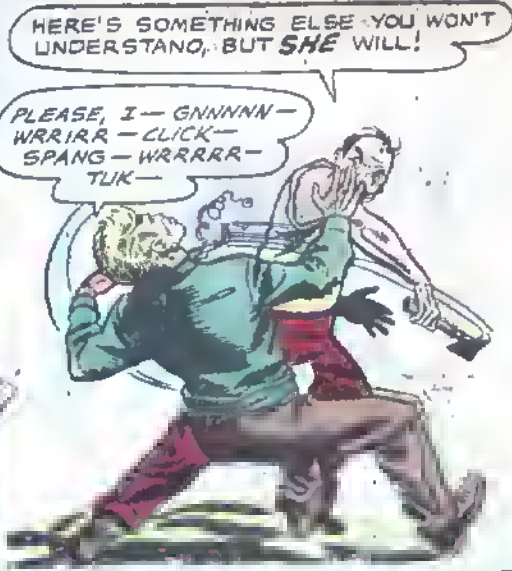




NO! DON'T DESTROY HIM! EEEEEEE-

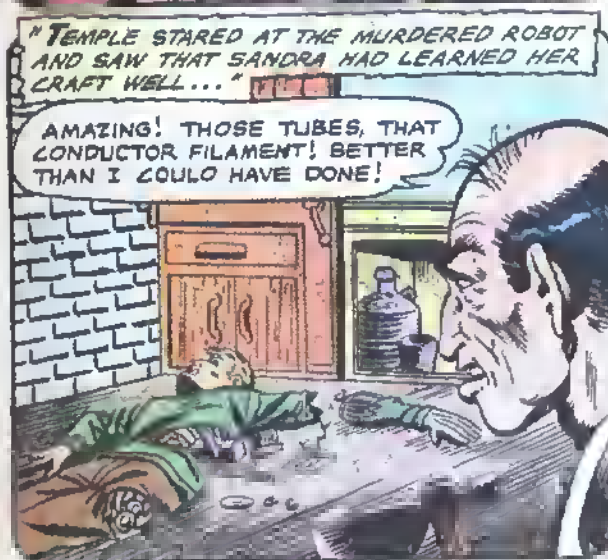
HAH-HAH! I'VE GOT TO SEE HOW GOOD A WORKMAN YOU ARE, SANDRA! I'M CURIOUS TO SEE HOW YOU PUT HIM TOGETHER!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!



PLEASE, I— GNNNN— WRRRR— CLICK— SPANG— WRRRR— TUK—

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT SHE WILL!



"TEMPLE STARED AT THE MURDERED ROBOT AND SAW THAT SANDRA HAD LEARNED HER CRAFT WELL..."

AMAZING! THOSE TUBES, THAT CONDUCTOR FILAMENT! BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE DONE!



"AND THOUGH TEMPLE WAS OBVIOUSLY INSANE, HE WAS NO FOOL..."

I'M NOT GOING TO HARM YOU, SANDRA! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A TESTIMONIAL TO MY GENIUS!

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, LARRY!



I AM NO LONGER YOUR CREATURE! MY MIND IS ACTUALLY SUPERIOR TO YOURS! AND I HATE YOU—I HATE ALL HUMANS, BUT ESPECIALLY MEN! GOODBYE, YOU CRIPPLE!



"SANDRA WAS OUT THE DOOR BEFORE THE STUNNED MAN COULD STOP HER..."

SANDRA— COME BACK!

NEVER! MY REVENGE ON ALL OF YOU BEGINS TONIGHT!

AND THAT'S THE STORY OF PROFESSOR TEMPLE, JIM! HE KILLED HIMSELF THE NEXT DAY! THEY FOUND A DIARY WITH ALL THE FACTS, JUST AS I TOLD THEM TO YOU TONIGHT!

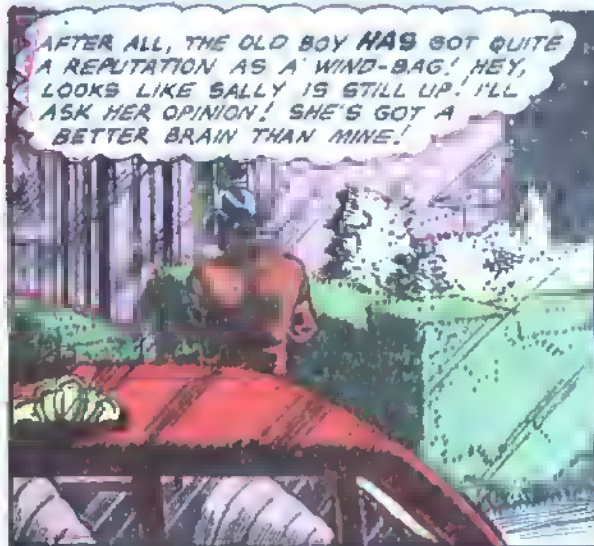
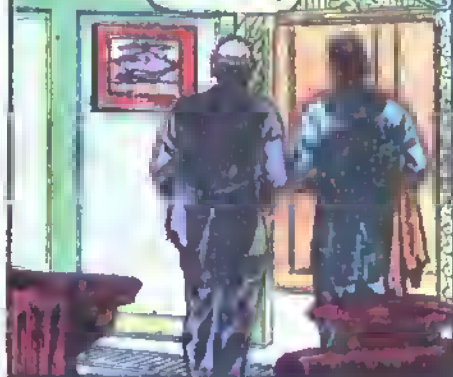
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SANDRA, TO THE ROBOT?

THEY NEVER FOUND HER! SHE MIGHT BE ANYWHERE, POSING AS A HUMAN BEING! GOOD NIGHT, JIM!

GOOD NIGHT, SIR!

WHEN — THAT WAS SOME STORY! I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF IT IS REALLY TRUE!

TAXI!



AFTER ALL, THE OLD BOY HAS GOT QUITE A REPUTATION AS A 'WIND-BAG.' HEY, LOOKS LIKE SALLY IS STILL UP! I'LL ASK HER OPINION! SHE'S GOT A BETTER BRAIN THAN MINE!



DARLING, YOU'RE SO LATE! BEEN AT THE CLUB ALL THIS TIME?

YES, LISTENING TO OLD PROFESSOR BENNING SPIN A YARN! C'MON — AND I'LL TELL YOU!

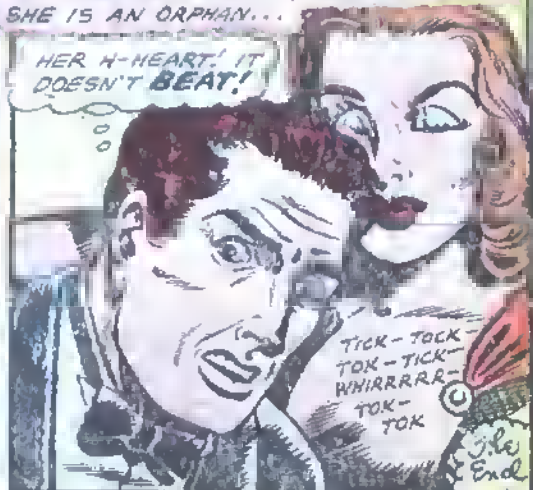


FUNNY THING! AT THE CLUB WITH THE PROFESSOR, I ALMOST BELIEVED THAT CRAZY STORY OF HIS! NOW I DON'T! SO WE'LL JUST SKIP IT!

IF YOU LIKE, DARLING! BUT COME AND GIVE YOUR WIFE A KISS!

SUDDENLY JIM FEELS A CHILL STRIKE DOWN HIS SPINE! HIS MIND REELS! HE REMEMBERS THAT HE REALLY KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT SALLY, WHO HAD SAID SHE IS AN ORPHAN...

HER H-HEART! IT DOESN'T BEAT!



TICK - TOCK - TOK - TICK - WHIRRRRR - TOK - TOK

The End

The Monster's Revenge

EVER LOOK BEHIND YOU ON A DARK NIGHT AND KNOW SOMETHING WAS THERE? INVISIBLE, YET STEALTHY AND TERRIBLE, COOCHING YOUR EYES, WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO STRIKE! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO DORENE CHRISTY, FAMOUS GIRL HUNTER! SHE RAN WALEFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD, SEEKING ESCAPE FROM AN EVIL WHICH SHE HERSELF HAD FABRICATED, BUT IN THE END SHE FOUND NO MERCY FROM THE THING THAT FOLLOWED...



DORENE LOVED TO HUNT BIG GAME—
THE BIGGER THE BETTER....

RUN, YOU ZOWARDS! I'LL PUT
A BULLET IN THE BRAIN OF
THIS MANGY CAT!

AYEEEE!
SIMBA KILL
US!

AND... YOU CAN
COME BACK

NOW, BOYS!
LITTLE DORENE
DID IT AGAIN!
SKIN THIS
BRUTE FOR
ME!

HOEEEE—
MISSY IS
GREAT
HUNTER!



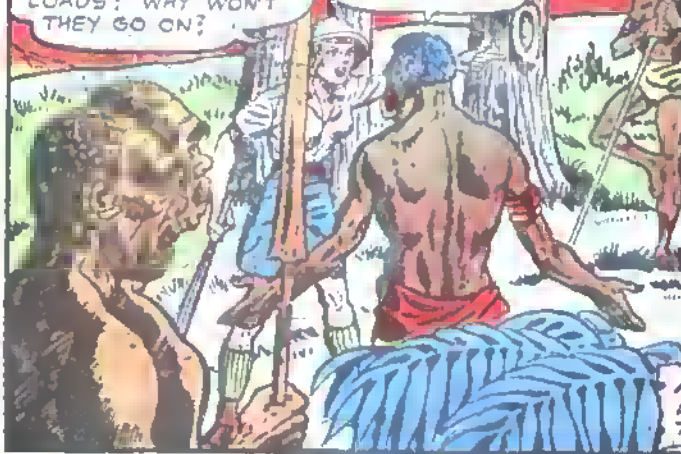
A FEW DAYS LATER...
TAMBO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHY ARE THE BOYS DROPPING THEIR LOADS? WHY WON'T THEY GO ON?

THEY MUCH 'FRAID, MISSY! NO WANT GO DEEPER INTO JUNGLE! IS PLACE OF GORILLA PEOPLE! ME 'FRAID, TOO!

GORILLA PEOPLE? WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THAT?

AYEEEE—TAMBO SPEAK TRUE!

IS MUCH BAD! THEY GORILLA BY DAY, BUT CAN TURN INTO HUMAN AT NIGHT! IS WITCHCRAFT! WE NOT GO!



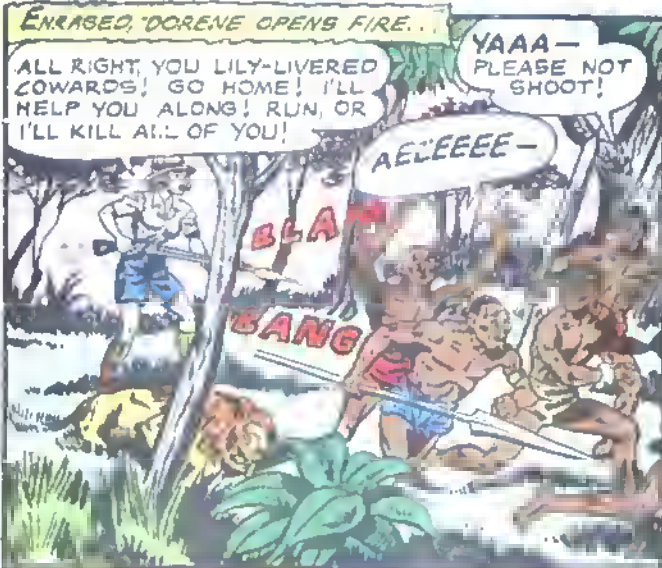
AND DORENE GOES ON ALONE, DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE TRACKLESS JUNGLE...

ENRAGED, DORENE OPENS FIRE...

ALL RIGHT, YOU LILY-LIVERED COWARDS! GO HOME! I'LL HELP YOU ALONG! RUN, OR I'LL KILL ALL OF YOU!

YAAA—PLEASE NOT SHOOT!

AE'EEEE—



SO THIS IS THE VILLAGE OF THE GORILLA PEOPLE, IS IT? HAH-HAH! THOSE SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES! THIS IS JUST A BUNCH OF OLD ABANDONED HUTS!



BUT THERE IS A BROODING MENACE ABOUT THE EMPTY HUTS THAT IS UNNERVING...

IT IS QUEER! I FOUND FOOD IN THOSE HUTS, FRESHLY COOKED FOOD! IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY KNEW I WAS COMING AND FLED INTO THE JUNGLE!

THAT NIGHT A GRADUAL TERROR CREEPS OVER THE GIRL, BECAUSE OUT THERE...

YES! HUNDREDS OF BRIGHT RED EYES! THEY WATCH ME, BUT THEY NEVER MAKE A SOUND! B-BUT SOMEHOW I KNOW THEY AREN'T ANIMALS!



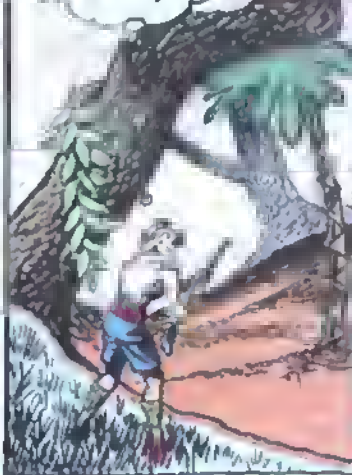
EARLY NEXT MORNING, HER NERVES RAGGED, DORENE STARTS BACK...

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! SOMETHING IS STILL WATCHING ME, I KNOW IT! I CAN FEEL THE EYES ON MY BACK!

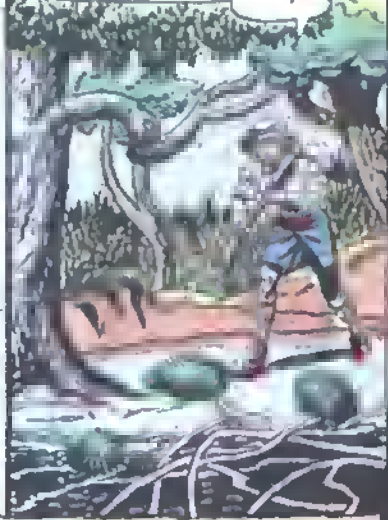


SUDDENLY...

THAT'S FUNNY! I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD SOMEONE MOAN! LIKE A PERSON IN DREADFUL PAIN!



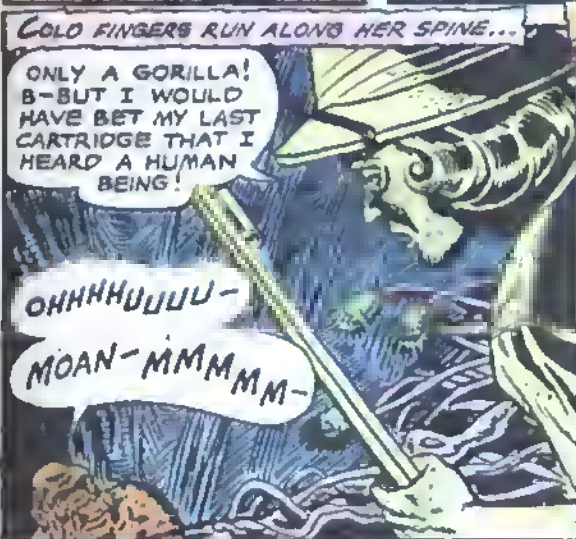
SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM OVER HERE SOMEWHERE! WHY, IT'S A PIT! AN ANIMAL PIT, AND SOMEONE IS TRAPPED IT!



COLD FINGERS RUN ALONG HER SPINE...

ONLY A GORILLA! B-BUT I WOULD HAVE BET MY LAST CARTRIDGE THAT I HEARD A HUMAN BEING!

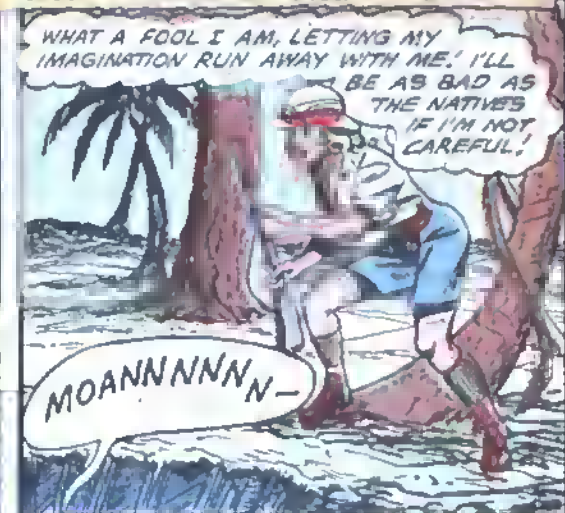
OHNNHHUUUU-
MOAN-MMMM-MM-



TO BE FOLLOWED BY RAGE AT HERSELF...

WHAT A FOOL I AM, LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME! I'LL BE AS BAD AS THE NATIVES IF I'M NOT CAREFUL!

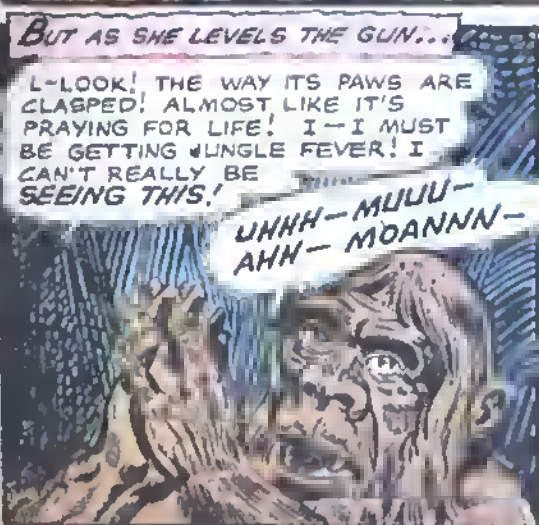
MOANNNNN-



BUT AS SHE LEVELS THE GUN...

L-LOOK! THE WAY ITS PAWS ARE CLASPED! ALMOST LIKE IT'S PRAYING FOR LIFE! I-I MUST BE GETTING JUNGLE FEVER! I CAN'T REALLY BE SEEING THIS!

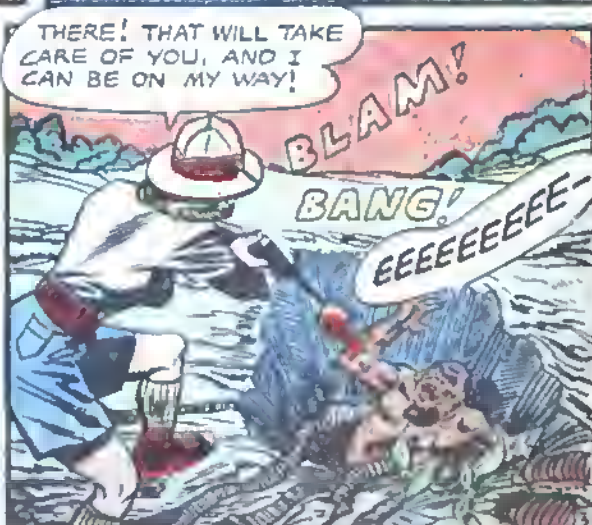
UHHH-MUUU-
AHN-MOANNN-



THERE! THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, AND I CAN BE ON MY WAY!

BLAM!
BANG!

EEEEEEEEEE-



AS THE HUGE APE GAGGS OUT ITS LIFE, DOMENE TURNS AND FLEES ALONG THE JUNGLE TRAIL, DRIVEN BY SUDDEN FEAR...

THAT DEATH CRY! HORRIBLE! ALMOST AS IF I'D SHOT A HUMAN BEING! AND N-NOW I FEEL AS THOUGH I WERE BEING FOLLOWED AGAIN!



AND THEN... (AHHH— A BULL APE! AFTER ME! IT MUST BE THE MATE OF THE ONE I KILLED.)



THE FURRY MONSTER CHARGED, ITS JAWS FLECKED WITH FOAM...

H-HERE IT COMES! I MUSTN'T MISS! OH! I FORGOT TO RELOAD!



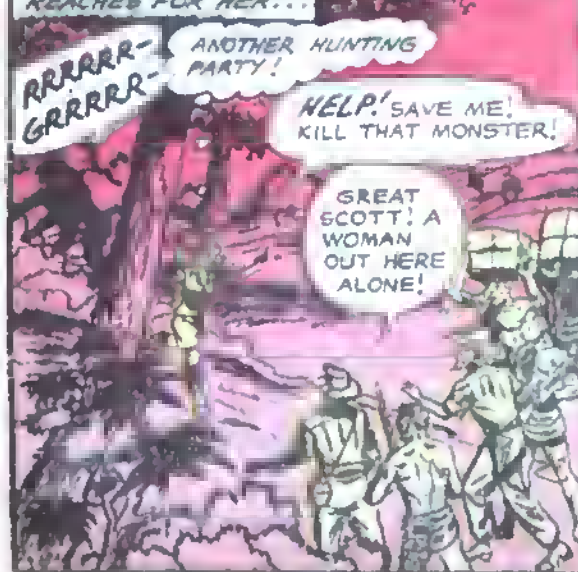
DOMENE DROPS THE USELESS GUN AND FLEES IN TERROR...

AGGRRRRRR— EEEEEEEE— IT'LL TEAR ME TO PIECES!



BUT JUST AS THE BRUTE REACHES FOR HER...

RRRRRR— GRRRRR— ANOTHER HUNTING PARTY! HELP! SAVE ME! KILL THAT MONSTER!



NO USE, SWANA! YES, BLAST IT! IT WAS SMART ENOUGH TO TURN TAIL AND RUN! FIERCE-LOOKING BEAST, TOO! CREATURE GONE!

OH —(SOS)— THANK GOOD-NESS!



FOR ONCE, DORENE HAS HER ROLL OF MONTY AND CATCHES A PLANE FOR THE COAST...

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THAT GORILLA, MISS CHRISTY! YOU'RE A PRETTY LUCKY GIRL!

I KNOW! FOR A TIME I ALMOST BELIEVED THE NATIVE'S STORY ABOUT GORILLA PEOPLE! BUT I CAN LAUGH AT IT NOW!

SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T PAY TO LAUGH, MISS! FUNNY THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN THE JUNGLE!

NONSENSE! THAT STORY ABOUT GORILLAS THAT CHANGE INTO HUMANS AT NIGHT IS SILLY! WHAT I SAW WAS A REAL GORILLA AND ITS MATE! NOTHING MORE!

BUT DORENE REMEMBERS — THE EYES THAT WATCHED HER, THE GORILLA WHO SEEMED TO PRAY FOR LIFE! BACK IN NEW YORK IT MAKES A GOOD STORY! ONE NIGHT...

THE LION? YES, THAT'S THE ONE I SHOT JUST BEFORE I HAD THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURE WITH THE GORILLAS!

TELL ME!

I WENT ALONG TO THE VILLAGE WHERE THOSE FOOL NATIVES SAID THE GORILLA PEOPLE LIVED! IMAGINE — APES THAT BECOME PEOPLE AT NIGHT! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR ABOUT THAT FEMALE I KILLED! SHE SEEMED TO BE PRAYING...

THE STORY IS TOLD AGAIN AND AGAIN! AT LAST IT GROWS LATE AND THE GUESTS LEAVE...

GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE! COME AGAIN SOON!

NIGHT, DORENE! WONDERFUL PARTY!

AT LAST! I'M — (YAWN) — GLAD THEY'RE GONE! NOW FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

SHE TURNS — AND AN ICY HAND GRIPS HER HEART...

HELLO! NOW WE CAN HAVE OUR LITTLE TALK!

AHHH — W-WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? YOU SHOULD! WE'VE MET BEFORE, IN A PLACE A LONG WAY FROM HERE!

I - I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL! NOW IF YOU WILL PLEASE GO! I'M AWFULLY TIRED, AND...

BUT THE STRANGER SHOWS NO SIGNS OF GOING...

I'M AFRAID! MAYBE I CAN CALL DOWN TO THE SWITCH-BOARD FOR HELP!

NO USE, MISS CHRISTY! GET AWAY FROM THAT PHONE! AND LOOK INTO MY EYES. SEE IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER!

Y-YOUR EYES! THEY-THERE IS SOMETHING! BUT I CAN'T...

YOU SHOULD KNOW! IT WAS YOU WHO MURDERED MY WIFE! REMEMBER NOW? YOU SHOT HER DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!

THEN DORENE REMEMBERS-AND THE WORLD SPINS IN A MIST OF TERROR...

YOU! EEEEEEEEEE!
IT-IT'S TRUE, THEN!

YES, IT'S TRUE! I'VE FOLLOWED YOU A LONG TIME - FOR THIS!

FOR THEY HAD MET BEFORE - IN THE JUNGLE...

AS A BLOOD-RED SUN GILDS THE TOWERS OF MANHATTAN, A FURRY BRUTE STALKS AND KILLS! DORENE, IN THAT LAST HORRIBLE SECOND BEFORE THE FANGS BIT DEEP, KNEW THE TRUTH! THE NATIVES HAD NOT LIED...

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